

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: ECOSOC

SUBJ: 63RD ECOSOC: HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (ITEM 10)

REF: A. STATE 163799, B. GENEVA 5769

1. SUMMARY. THE DEFERENCE OF THE QUESTION OF LINKAGE AND THE RANK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE UNTIL THE 32ND UNGA TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE DECISIONS ON RESTRUCTURING PROVIDES A MODEST HOPE FOR MOVING FORWARD WITH BASIC DECISIONS/COMPROMISES ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS. THIS COULD CHANGE DEPENDING UPON POSITIONS TAKEN IN THURSDAY'S NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. WHILE SOME DELS HAVE EXPRESSED PREFERENCES IN VARYING DEGREES FOR NEW YORK (MOST NOTABLY JAPAN AND THE UK), THE VAST MAJORITY OF DELS HAVE COME OUT IN FAVOR OF NAIROBI, AND THERE IS NO DOUBT IN ANYONE'S MIND THAT THE COMPROMISE SITE WILL BE NAIROBI. (DELS INITIALLY EXPRESSING A PREFERENCE FOR NEW YORK, SUCH AS CANADA, POLAND, USSR, AND EVEN UK, HAVE STATED THEY COULD ACCEPT NAIROBI, AND DEBATE HAS, FOR ALL INTENTS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PURPOSES, MOVED FORWARD IN THESE TERMS. IN ESSENCE, THE STAGE AND DELICACY OF NEGOTIATIONS HAVE MOVED BEYOND THE POINT WHERE WE FEEL IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR THE U.S. TO RETRENCH ON THE QUESTION OF LOCATION. WE AND MOST DELS CONSIDER IT A MAJOR SUCCESS TO HAVE BROKEN THE UNEP LINK (SPELLED OUT IN THE OAU RESOLUTION) AND HAVE AFRICAN GROUP AGREEMENT. IN SO DOING WE PRESERVE UNEP'S CENTRAL FUNCTION AND PURPOSE AS A COORDINATING BODY FOR ENVIRON-

MENTAL MATTERS, AND NOT AN OPERATIONAL AGENCY ENGAGED IN LARGE SCALE PROGRAM EXECUTION.

3. THE CENTRAL QUESTION SEPARATING THE GROUP RELATES TO LINKAGE, AND IT SEPARATES INTO TWO PARTS: A) THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL BODY'S RELATIONSHIP TO ECOSOC AND THE GA; AND B) THE QUESTION OF TO WHOM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS. AS TO THE FORMER (A), WHEN NEGOTIATIONS FAILED TO REACH A COMPROMISE, THE NIGERIANS, ON BEHALF OF THE G-77, AT THE CLOSE OF WEDNESDAY NIGHT'S MEETING, TOOK THE POSITION THAT THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL BODY SHOULD BE ELECTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PERHAPS REPORTING THROUGH ECOSOC TO THE GA. (THIS WOULD BE ANALOGOUS TO THE CENTRE FOR TRANS-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS.) THE USDEL WOULD NOT SUPPORT THIS APPROACH. AS TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORTING RELATIONSHIP (B), IT IS APPARENT THAT THE NOTION OF HAVING ANY NEW BODY OR HIGH RANKING INDIVIDUAL AT THIS JUNCTURE REPORT TO ESA IS ABHORRENT TO THE G-77, EVEN IF VAN LAETHAM IS REPLACED. THE LANGUAGE CONTAINED IN REF B IS AN EFFORT TO GET OVER THIS DIFFICULTY BY TAKING THE LEGITIMATE CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY MANY DELS WITH REGARD TO THE IMPACT OF THE RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE (CREATION OF A DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT, RESHUFFLING OF THE VARIOUS PIECES OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS, AND THE IDEA OF SUBJECT-ORIENTED ECOSOC SESSIONS) AND AT THE SAME TIME HAVE SOME FORWARD PROGRESS IN CONSOLIDATING A PROGRAM ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS. WE BELIEVE THE CANADIAN/SWEDISH DRAFT OFFERS A MODEST HOPE TO UNTIE THE GORDIAN KNOT.

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4. WITH REGARD TO THE FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ANNEX, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, NO WORK HAS BEEN DONE ON THIS, EITHER BY THE UN SECRETARIAT OR THE WORKING GROUP. RE THE LATTER, THE INTENSITY OF NEGOTIATIONS ON ARRIVING AT A ROUGH FORMULA FOR CONSENSUS AGREEMENT HAS NOT PROVIDED ANY OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE THIS SUBJECT UP.

VANDEN HEUVEL

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